

76  
LETTER  
TO  
SIR W. CHATHAM

CONCERNING  
The present WAR of GREAT BRITAIN  
against AMERICA.

Reviewing CANDIDLY and IMPARTIALLY  
Its unhappy CAUSE and CONSEQUENCE;

AND WHEREIN  
The DOCTRINE of Sir WILLIAM BLACKSTONE  
IS EXPLAINED  
In his celebrated COMMENTARIES on the LAWS  
of ENGLAND,  
Is opposed to MINISTERIAL TYRANNY,  
And held up in favor of AMERICA.

WITH  
Some THOUGHTS on GOVERNMENT.

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By a GENTLEMAN of the Inner Temple.

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“ For this the *patriot Council* met, the full,  
“ The free, and fairly-represented whole ;  
“ For this they plann’d the holy guardian laws,  
“ Distinguish’d orders, animated arts,  
“ And with joint force Oppression chaining, set  
“ *Imperial Justice* at the helm ; yet still  
“ To them accountable : nor slavish dream’d  
“ That toiling millions must resign their weal,  
“ And all the honey of their search, to such  
“ As for themselves alone themselves have rais’d.”

THOMPSON.

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1776. J

THE TIE  
OLD CHATHAM

# The American Geographical Society

**THE APPROVED CHARTER OF CONFEDERANCE:**

THE DOCUMENTS OF THE MARITIME MASTERS  
EXHIBITION

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“**Đ**ất nước ta là một đất nước có di sản văn hóa lâu đời và phong phú, với hàng nghìn năm lịch sử và di sản văn hóa tinh túc.”

...in beginning, up to bimonthly " 21  
21, paid into my account with the bank " 21  
21, for which sum I have received " 21  
21, and am now entitled to receive " 21

“*Wise men and bold, I grieve to think, are few.*” A 12

**MONTGOMERY**

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## ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following letter (except as to some late alterations) was wrote at the time Doctor Price published his pamphlet on Civil Liberty; and would have been produced before, had the Author supposed the contents of it more material than the Doctor's, which appears to have obtained unexpected applause. But as time in a degree has silenced the clamours on its merits, and as government is pursuing unremittingly an unprofitable conquest in contempt of every argument, the Author presumes to think that the people in this country cannot be too often reminded of their situation under profligate Ministers, nor be taught to regret the want of a Pitt at the head of their public affairs; he has therefore dedicated his letter to Lord Chatham.

With respect to men, the Author has as bad an opinion of many that are out, as any one can have of the many pantomimical actors that are in; and he fears the time may come when the King will not be able to sleep for the cries of his people, occasioned not by himself, so much as by his unhallowed Ministers.

It is the continuance of the constitution in perfect order, which must and will hand down our title as freemen. Nothing else can. But when civil liberty dies, whether by foreign or domestic invasion, or is likely to

to receive a mortal disease, we must either suffer it by inaction from wishes to be slaves; or if emulous to preserve sacred or inviolable such constitution for the benefit of posterity, it is our duty to make a stand against growing oppression.

In vindication of the laws and constitution, from the attack made upon both, the Author has been tempted to write. The intent of which attack, examined in whatever form we will, is to subvert the fabric of our commonweal, by endeavouring to persuade the consciences of the subjects, that they are bound to obey commands, unconstitutional and illegal.

The reader, however, on a serious perusal of the following pages, will no doubt judge for himself. The Author means not to lead him into his own opinion of the subject, or to convince him that there is too much justice in his reasoning: but if that should happen, it will be the *subject*, and not the *writer*, that occasions it.

[ 2 ]

RIGHT HONOURABLE  
LORD CHATHAM.

IT cannot, I hope, be considered a liberty in me to address myself publickly to your Lordship, when it is known, that among our present Peers, few men deserve more publick acknowledgments than yourself, for the services done to your country, during a long and wearisome administration, in the course of our late successful war with France and Spain; among which acknowledgments I have ever clasped my own.

I regret on behalf of myself, and many of my countrymen, that the infirmities incident to human life, when worn down to a particular period, by labor in the arduous task of conducting public affairs with success, should have drove your Lordship into retirement;

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the more so, because great abilities, united to an experienced integrity, have ever made your political character singular and unparalleled.

I say this, since few like yourself either preceded or followed you in your official capacity of Statesman, Commissioner and Minister.

After you withdrew from the care of your country, we beheld leaders only for a season; government has been in the hands of unsettled profigates, and we have been destitute of a Minister, till Lord North came forward at the heels of his Grace of Grafton, who had been justly rendered obnoxious by the pen of Junius.

Lord North hath been more permanent; patience hath enabled him to persevere in office, while the most perilous adventures were agitated; and he has for some years weathered the impending storms of public and private reprehension, respecting the affairs of America.

Happy in the security of a majority in both Houses of Parliament, by the common means of corruption, he has now involved us in a war; which, from all ostensible accounts, with others

thers more tremendous, give to the times the blackest complexion; threatening also, from clouds that low over the political hemisphere, the most awful tempest! The cause and subject of which war, added to my particular esteem for your Lordship's understanding, prompts me now to dedicate a few thoughts to you.

I have long been a silent observer of most of the sentiments published on both sides the question, between Great Britain and America; tho' the ignorance of some, and the fallacy of others, have provoked exposition, I have yet remained silent, because I know there are men better calculated than I should be, in speaking *common sense*, on so important an occasion.

That, with truth, will always bear away every sophistical argument, and disperse in clouds the fumes of weak and wicked minds, while right calmly sequesters in solitude, to bewail its unrelenting injuries.

I have been taught to believe, that in all national adventures our Ministers have, or ought to have, some public beneficial object in view; this is their

duty, to swerve from it merits death. If then, on this principle, we have the smallest retrospection on the conduct of our present public rulers, and steadfastly examine their plans of the day, we must lament that a regard to their own future welfare, as individuals, is wanting to fortify themselves and measures, against universal reproach and depreciation.

To probe for the motive to pursue with apparent implacable vengeance our brethren in America, for having broke no law, trespassed on no property, is impracticable; it is known only in the Cabinet, which, assisted by the inglorious string of Privy Counsellors, seems to bid defiance to every rule of reason and sound policy; the particulars have already been made notorious. It is not my present business to traverse them, but rather to condemn, composedly, the attempts of many ingenious writers on the side of government, who palpably excel in the mean art of confusing the vulgar mind, which excellencies have been their sole endeavour; but they have rendered their cause subject to censure, and exposed it to the contempt of those, who otherwise

wife would have yet beheld it in a false glare.

Look round the kingdom, my Lord, and tell the general opinion in regard to America; Ministers may presume to hold forth a huge and mountainous heap of *Addresses*, as a plea that a majority is for subduing America; but I hold up to them *Remonstrances* and *Protests*, that will most powerfully counteravail them for truth, language, and that godlike attribute, Justice. *Addresses* have been procured; *Remonstrances* and *Protests* have flowed spontaneously. The former have been culled like votes at an election; the latter have originated from the tender feelings of independent men, for injured liberty, for wisdom and discretion lost!

And yet are there men, with all their cringing, interested dependants, who hold forth the hard rod of iron, to take our money by new-invented taxes, to sport with the blood of men, to call in mercenaries, to aid in that sanguine task, and lastly, to dip their hands in innocent gore!

For what have the Americans done? Alas! gracious heaven! in a weaker state their jealousies were animated, that

because

because they had ascertained to laws injurious to themselves, we were desirous of increasing our power over them, by making others equally mischievous.

They next murmured at the introduction of a tax, calculated (as they fore-saw, and we well knew,) as a prelude for future imposition; we felt the force of their complaint at that time, and by your Lordship's means wisely repealed the law<sup>†</sup>, the putative father of which, (the late Mr. Grenville) can now no longer answer for himself.

Some years afterwards, the shadow of a tax was substituted under the article of tea, to oblige our India Company; indeed it was a masterpiece, and nothing but folly could have persuaded a pliant Parliament, after the just repeal of the Stamp Act, to impose a still more odious tax on the Americans, at the risk of exasperating them to every refusal, and the loss of great national opulence, the British customs. In fact, the Americans resented the insult that was offered them by this tax, perhaps with violence; yet let us consider the provocation, and we shall find some excuse for them.

<sup>†</sup> The Stamp Act.

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It is a misfortune, that men seldom argue on a true ratio; interest, folly, or passion, too often prevail to confuse and cloud their imagination: while the dispassionate, who think before they speak, are well informed before they write, or who have nothing but naked truth in view, are brought to a given point, and see things really as they are.

But to avoid digression; government, in return for the violence done to the tea, which carried with it a tax, determined on rigor and subdiction; two shameful Acts of Parliament were passed, scandalous to our religion, and infringing on *Magna Charta*. These were meant as baits for the people of all Canada to join the side of government; its success, however, is too well known.

Next was produced the Boston Port Bill, which being soon found effectually of no purpose, after producing great slaughter on the memorable action at Bunker's-hill, was repealed, and we on our parts impliedly declared against all the internal dealings of the Americans with all the world.

The poor ill-treated Americans were now deemed rebels, and stiled paltroons,

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enthusiasts, and cowards; an Englishman was to drive them before him in clouds, and destruction was to be their portion.

Providence, however, has proved itself something more than a name; the Americans were not estranged from the favors of divine effusion; they have been cool in their debates; sensible in all their thoughts; firm in their adjudications; resolute in their decrees; and determined in their execution: the whole continent of North America felt an equal injury, and its provinces separately convened their delegates to commune for the future welfare of the whole, opposed to the unexampled efforts of a British Ministry, to rob them of all that could be dear to them, their liberty, their property, and their lives.

Pause, my Lord, for a moment, and follow me in this reflection: the Americans have done no wrong to our country in ought we have heard alledged against them; they were an increasing people, daily improving in arts and science, daily improving in consequence and wealth. This is their crime; and because they would not submit to British imposts, begot and

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matured by a corrupt majority of an English Parliament, which to them was of no more force than an edict from a Polish Diet, attempts have been made to dragoon them into it in spite of every thing. Taxation is the word, and taxed our Ministry say they shall be.

Infamous denunciation ! The first endeavour your Lordship proved unjust and impolitick ; the present is more so ; the pretence is an insult to the British constitution, to enforce obedience to a law from a people, who are in no instance parties to it ; as well might I expect a decree to be made against me in a cause where I have never been served with a process to appear, and defend myself against its prayer, be the same never so unjust.

How idle have the pens been, nevertheless, engaged to prove that two and two do *not* make four ; while even taxation to America contradicts common sense, unless by themselves, or in conjunction with us. They have never yet had any share in our legislature, consequently cannot be affected by its actions. This is a known truth, and is *legally* admitted on all sides ; pity it is, it has not been so *politically*.

ns to virginia [ 1790 ] & yd britons

A policy which we can hardly account for, or comprehend, has propelled measures of blood, distress, and ruin. Our national expence is increased, the better to slaughter our fellow-creatures, employ our army and navy, and promote desolation in the once quiet homes of a useful and prosperous people.

Yet what is the end to be hazarded? Will it make the Americans love us? Will they deal with us solely? Or will they, after a glorious struggle for real liberty, be able to trade more profitably among us? Certainly not. It is nonsense to suppose it. What then would our conquest be, supposing (what is far from being probable) if after they are subdued, we view them miserable and forlorn, their towns destroyed, their estates plundered, and their lands depopulated.

Our conquest then will be mere defeat; they will be conquerors for having exhausted and risked their all against us, while we shall be the vanquished by our loss of time, blood, and treasure. We may then look on America in a degree as another discovery, and begin to colonize a-new. In vain will boasting Britons

Britons, who have been deluded to address the throne, look back for lost wealth. In vain may they or their children expect a return. It is impossible: War has ever produced poverty, and is commonly the consequence of riches.

It is not, however, so with this, which is openly carried on for power, under that extraordinary idea of a Scotch law lord, that if America is not subdued, England must; which is making savages and canibals of the Americans for denying obedience to the most afflictive despotism. Was this war supported by justice, providence might countenance it, but it is otherwise; and our Ministers both (ostensible and private) may live to rue its unhallowed promotion by finding it productive of every ill without one object of advantage, even in theory.

But it is urged that this is a war to make the Americans sensible of their duty and allegiance to England. They have never professed to want this. They have gloried in the name of Englishmen; and have proved their free preference to this country by submitting to the Navigation Act, and

several others fabricated here purely to keep them poor and subservient.

What else can we expect from them, to shew their allegiance? We have had all their trade, and all their profit in the ballance of that trade---yet they are disobedient! True! They have trampled on our laws, manifestly intended to rob them, because to those laws they have had no negative.

Shifting from this ground, which puzzled the literary multitude for a time, we have taken another subterfuge, and asked, *Are not the Americans bound by every tie of honor, gratitude, and right, to contribute to the burthen of our taxes at home, and that as a people originating from us, sent out of this kingdom, nurtured and protected by us?* I answer No, unless by voluntary gift, which they have ever been ready to bestow.

Compulsion in this country is illegal in the case of supplies? and the favor of our originally sending our countrymen out to colonize, with charters in their hands, has been a favour done to ourselves at home, more than to them, who when they emigrated became inhabitants in the then inhospitable

table

table lands of America, for *our* benefit only. The advantage to them has been no more than the rewards of *their labor*; originally the parent state might protect them, but it was for its own welfare, the value of America would otherwise have been insignificant to us. When therefore it became, by continued cultivation, into consequence, and Britain felt the profit in its trade, the protection of the parent state naturally relaxed, and its fostering hand withered into imbecility; for it is absurd to suppose that, because the Americans sprung from Britons, they should ever be under their arbitrary sway. They have never denied our legal dominion; let them be put on an equality with us, and their complaints will vanish.

It is then said that they glory in the avoidance of this, and the impossibility of putting it in practice. This is really chimerical, for we have yet given no opportunity to treat with them on proper terms. A Scotch law lord made them *monsters* that were to *kill us*, if we did not *kill them*; and the sword was drawn to put those to death who disobeyed the calls of an encroaching government.

Review

Review the result. Worn out with complaining, remonstrating and petitioning, in vain, tho' in the most humble, loyal, and suppliant manner to the Throne, their prayers were despised, and they were deemed still more contemptible. War was announced in the Cabinet, and all the horrid engines were procured for the carnage of *ourselves*.

The poor Americans, like men struggling in the cause of virtue, withdrew from all their luxuries by which our trade with them profited. They considered themselves in a state of social nature, and prepared with all possible wisdom to meet our continued oppression under arms.

Cowards and paltroons, as they have been termed, they have patiently dispensed with our burning some of their towns, and killing their brethren. They have prepared to meet us in our *own way*, not theirs, for we have forced them to it, and to repel (if possible) the force of arms, by *arms*.

Finding all their pursuits for redress were made to no purpose, they have estranged themselves from us, and

and have reluctantly declared an independence.

On our parts, armies and fleets have hitherto unsuccessfully been engaged against them.

Paltroons as they are, they have scattered in their seas privateers, which annoy and take our vessels; to the damage of private owners, to whom there is no relief. They are uniform in their conduct; and considering how little accustomed to arms, are wonderfully dextrous. In time practice will make them more so, notwithstanding the contrivances in government to mislead us, by what their missionaries may write or send forth to the contrary.

In regard to the question between Great Britain and America, a learned writer has sensibly termed it a new one. It is so, in politicks, beyond a doubt: the more necessary was it then on our parts to act with delicacy and tenderness, to turn it in our own favor, rather than to carry it as such by the overbearing *bribery* of *Ministers*, who have hitherto shewn little regard for the happiness of the community, and who now immersed in sins of their own begetting, may soon be sensible of their

their ill conduct, when all their sacrilegeous deeds against America may leave behind them an evil phantom that will, while life lasts, torment and harass them.

Judge Blackstone, whose name must be handed down to posterity with honor, as illustrated involuntarily by the superingenuous writer of a fragment on government,\* while speaking of countries subject to the laws of England, rather obliquely skims his eye over our plantations in America.

He says, "These are also in some respects subject to the laws of England; plantations or colonies in distant countries are either such where the lands are either claimed by occupancy only, by finding them desert and uncultivated, and peopling them from the Mother Country; or where, when already cultivated, they have either been gained by conquest, or ceded to us by treaties."

And he proceeds further to say, that both these rights are founded on the law of nature, or at least that of nations." But then he says "there is a difference between these two species of colonies with respect to the laws

\* A very labor'd pamphlet lately published.

" laws by which they are bound :" for he quotes as a lawyer an authority from a law reporter,\* where it hath been held, that if an uninhabited country is discovered and planted by English subjects, all the English laws then in being, which are the birth-right of every subject, are immediately then in force.

These are his words : " Such colonists carry with them only so much of the English laws as is applicable to their own situation, and the condition of an infant colony. Such for instance as the general rules of inheritance, and protection from personal injuries. What shall be admitted and what rejected, at what times and under what restraint, must in case of dispute be decided in the first instance by their own *provincial judicature*, subject to the revision of the King, their common parent in council, the whole of their constitution being liable to be new modelled by the general superintending power of the legislature in the Mother Country: but in conquered or ceded countries, that have already

\* Sir John Strange, I think.

" laws of their own, the King may,  
 " indeed alter and change those laws.  
 " Our American plantations are prin-  
 " cipally of this latter sort, being ob-  
 " tained in the last century, either by  
 " right of conquest, and driving out  
 " the natives" (with what justice the  
 learned judge will not enquire) " or by  
 " treaties."

Without continuing this perspicuous writer's sentiments further on this head, whereby he clearly explains in three divisions the interior polity of our colonies, we will examine the plain import of those already quoted.

Does he in any manner say or insinuate therein that the Americans, tho' subject to all the English laws THEN, in being, that is to say, at the time they emigrated, when they carried with them *only* so much of the English laws as were applicable to their condition as travellers, for the *benefit* of the *Mother Country*---I repeat, does he, insinuate that they or their posterity were to remain subjects to every new law made by an English parliament? No, his inference is the reverse of this; and like a lawyer and a man of strict honor and judgment, when he deduces

his

his subject down to taxation, he lays **NOTHING**, but simply quotes, that because several of the colonies had claimed, (what there is no precedent to counteravail) the sole and exclusive right to tax themselves, the Statute of 6 Geo. III. declares, that all his Majesty's colonies and plantations in America have been, are, and of right ought to be subordinate to the parliament of Great Britain in *all cases* whatever.

But what does all this imply? Is it the more consistent with the nature of civil right, because our parliament, complaisantly corrupt as we have beheld it, has reduced it into a declaratory act? Is the claim of America less founded in truth and justice to tax itself, exclusively for the benefit of the *Mother Country*, because a parliament, in which they have no voice, has decreed it otherwise? As well might the rulers of Japan make a law to affect them in their well doing, and enforce that law by arms among them, as for us, without their consent; by us, I mean our Ministry, who have waged a war for *conquest*, and not to determine any right at all.

To countenance which we have been amused, first, by arguments, which prove learning in the man, but corruption in his heart : \* second, by thoughts from an eccentric priest, † which are alike offensive to common sense. The former, very early in the dispute, presumed to encourage government on principles of northern justice ; the latter on those of a *calmer* dye, asserting in a religious style, that because we are but imperfectly represented at home ; or rather, that because every man was virtually represented at home, the Americans should be, and were the same.

This ingenuous writer went further, for he was bold enough to say, that because the original emigrants, from whom the present race descend, were virtually represented THEN in England, every existing American NOW is the same.

Away with such stuff, the rays of wisdom shine not upon it, except to darken it.

We have had also other pens employed, with feeble venom in favor of

\* Doctor J. ————— + John W. ————— a Mi-

a Ministry, until a dispassionate man, in plain terms, told the truth with surrounding applause. It was laudable and virtuous. Common happiness and benefit induced him to write, when nonsense, folly and false reasoning had poisoned myriads of unthinking hearers and prejudiced readers. Torrents of abuse have been poured upon this able writer, as a return for his having fought the Ministry with those damning weapons--facts.

But what avails it? Hirelings and tyrants have nearly brawled themselves into silence, and lost their little consequence in the vapors of their own insignificance.

I come now, my Lord, to the prosecution of this civil war, so little supported by justice, and so fatal in its effects, as I believe every reasonable being must view it to be against the Americans, who we behold irritated to resistance, and successful in their attempts against British violence, which strikes at their trade, their mutual intercourse, and the bounty of their God for subsistence.

Doctor P—.

Their

Their resistance against all this, our Ministry have been pleased to call *rebellion*, and the Americans *rebels*. If they are rebels, the people of every injured state are the same, in the minds of their intruders; but it is an idle and malicious term, for it is our *Administration* that is in rebellion, not the Americans; they have broke no law, whereto they were parties. We on our parts have broke thro' their charters, and committed violence to our own constitution, by stirring up a war so destructive to common humanity; so offensive to christianity. Those then that compose our Ministry are the rebels; the poor Americans, the oppressed people, against whom their rebellion is made.

And yet it is not against them alone, for it is the same against *ourselves*; and should success attend the hostility, which carries little probability, the stab will wound the vitals of the English form of government, by establishing a precedent in America, destructive of true liberty in England.

Hence comes the idea, that British liberty is now in the course of struggle for existence in America; and so it really

really is. If the present measures should answer their tyrannical purpose, the example will be rendered a record, and no bounds can be set against it by the discretion of succeeding Ministers, who lost in their reflections upon it, may be tempted hereafter to take fresh strides to injure America, and in the end ourselves.

Though Judge Blackstone has elegantly said, that the inhabitants of colonies, from the nature of their original settlement, are subjects of that country from whence they migrated, and are entitled to all the general laws of it, that is to say, the common law, for their own benefit, and that the UTILITY of it in certain cases is triable among themselves in their own provincial judicature; yet it does not appear that the revision he says it is subject to at home by the King in Council, would or could alter it in any way from the spirit of that very municipal or other law they were entitled to when they departed; nor, that if in the course of time, government, or rather domestic policy, should approach them injuriously, they should not, to the utmost of their power, resist it on principles of national justice; and  
when

when I say power, I mean strength of arms, which, if subdued by superior force, or martial subtlety, in no instance affects the right they had to oppose what tended to reduce them from that original condition as freemen, to which they were born, and in which they expatriated for the benefit of their countrymen they left behind.

A great deal of stress has been laid on charters, and a breach of them (with which the Americans have been charged) has been called a denial of the supremacy in the authority that granted them; but this is trifling with the main question, and puzzling the object of enquiry.

Royal charters may have their use, when legally consonant with reciprocal utility; but if the grantees are interrupted in the virtual enjoyment of them by the innovations of Ministers at home, who, jealous of American prosperity, shall be able to procure laws without their privity or assent, to their apparent injury, no longer are charters those objects of security and benefit they were supposed to contain. The happiness and well-being of the people living under them is then invaded. Their na-  
tive

tive rights as freemen are then violated ; the chain of government is broke between *governor* and *governed*, because it ceases to produce utility.

The celebrated author I had occasion to speak of in the beginning, has been blamed for taking up this question on the natural rights of man ; and it has been said by many sensible persons, (weakly enough, I think) that his principles are false ; but it concerns me exceedingly to believe otherwise ; for where a people are excluded from the advantages of a fixed constitution, to which they were born, and under which they lived for an age, and when that people are marked out as a prey for the advantage of a country from whence they originated, without respecting duly their own, which ought mutually to concur, what are they to exert but their *natural rights* in defence of themselves ? Or on what principle are we to argue in their favor, but those of *civil and political liberty* ? What are an injured people to do ? Submit to oppression, No ! And yet we are told, they are bound in duty, gratitude, and such like unmeaning terms, to bear a part of our national expences, for our care of them

last war, against our natural enemy the French.

In answer to which high-sounding expressions, I would ask, whether what we did for them in America last war, was out of a tender regard to their welfare, more than for our own? The fact I believe is in the negative. It was our interest to protect them; for had we lost them then, or any part of them, we had lost their trade, and all other emoluments we had before received from them, while they thought themselves allied to us by law or common right.

Yet, after all, how unequal to the task of conducting this same war have the Ministry proved themselves to be? Parliament has given them every assistance they asked; no unforeseen accidents have stood in their way; no foreign power hath interfered, and yet our arms have been disgraced; the flower of our army, with an immense artillery, under generals of fame, aided by a great naval force, have been blocked up in a sea-port town, and after repeated skirmishes, in which numbers of our men have fallen, they have not been able to do any thing but eat, drink, and sleep in

in their blockade. Important fortresses have been seized before their faces, and governors driven from their provinces.

Ministers may pretend, while half our empire is losing, that they have been deceived as to the strength and condition of the colonies; but since they have deceived Parliament, imposed on their King, and disgraced this nation by a war against our clearest interest, wantonly spilling the blood of our fellow-creatures, the attention of the people is called forth to anathamize their procedure as pernicious and diabolical.

It seems reasonable, however, for a moment, that the Americans should contribute in some way to the support of that government, from whence they derive their origin.† But the object of dispute is not that they (as their enemies have urged) ever attempted to deny this concession; it is the manner in which such a contribution shall be raised that has caused the war; government contending for an arbitrary mode, America properly refusing an acquiescence.

I will here consider their taxation under three heads: They must either

† But this only by consent and courtesy, and not from force.

be allowed a representation in our Parliament, or they must tax themselves. They must either pay according to an established proportion, or be fixed at an invariable sum. To bring about either of these ends, their consent must be obtained. Such, however, is the relation between America and the parent state, that objections arise against all these ; not one alone.

In numerous assemblies, interest will prevail over principles of honor and justice. Even among mankind as individuals, we frequently see the latter give way to the former ; but how much more must the interested principle influence a multitude, where the turpitude divided among so many, is greatly diminished, and where it may be covered under the specious pretence of studying the national welfare.

If the ruling power should take its seat in England in regard to taxes, the consequence would be dreadful to the colonies, their property would be at the mercy of a body actuated by nothing but interest, and they would be in a state of slavery.

The same argument may be held in respect to the Mother Country ; but why ?

why? Because she has brought them on herself by precipitately acting on *no other* principle than interest. The Americans tenderly treated must have been invited to such beneficial *further* submission, which might in theory have appeared to answer a reciprocal purpose.

If the other mode of taxation was adopted, and the Americans were obliged to raise a particular proportion of the supplies voted in England, we might then have difficulties, though perhaps none so great as in the other case. The only principle by which this proportion could be fixt is, the immediate abilities of the Americans, who, not advanced, like the English, to that improvement and consequence, which most likely are at their *ultimum*. They may make rapid advances in population, agriculture, and commerce, while England has seen all these at their height. From the extent of the country, the soil, and its natural produce, they may be a wealthier people than ever we were: but it is said that the progress of these improvements affects materially the principle of proportion, which, from the state of improvement both countries are in at present, might give

America

America too great an advantage over Britain.

Difficulties must certainly increase when we consider the manner of setting such quota to be paid by the Americans. If we were to fix them at the extent of their present abilities, they would naturally complain that they ought not to be confined in their trade, and that if they contribute to the support of government in England, why should not they possess the privileges which we enjoy by a free commerce.

The confining it is unjust in that case, and the submission hitherto has been of itself a contribution to England's treasure, by throwing the balance of that commerce into its favour, contra-distinguished from all the world besides; yet the law of our Ministry is, we will engross their trade, and tax them at pleasure! Infamously wicked!

By the war, the contribution I speak of from the profit of their trade to *our community*, and the *customs to government*, are lost, and it is doubtful if ever America, after all her injuries, will suffer it to return.

A perseverance in their late resolutions must inevitably wear the Ministry out, and too late may they discover their ill policy in calling for supplies to support fleets and armies to block up 1500 miles of coast, when their efforts are more notoriously fruitless, and the nation more sensible of the ill effects of so scandalous a war.

If we consider that mode of taxation, whereby an inviolable sum is fixt to be annually raised by America, objections will still arise.

As the state extends its empire, the national supply must continually vary; and to confine its expenditure during its advance, as well as its decline, to an invariable sum, would be every way absurd.

Should any accommodation now take place, which is the more unlikely from our Ministers having (to use a coarse expression) begun at the wrong end, such a mode of taxation is the most probable to be thought of by the Americans; which, if accompanied by a representation in our Parliament, would be the most constitutional, and favor as much of justice and expediency, as the nature of things will admit. It will never-

nevertheless be defective; but better so, than for ever lose the thriving intercourse with that improving country, which from all present appearances will finally draw away the essence of the British constitution, and reign independent of all other powers in the world.

Every mode, therefore, of taxation, seems to, and must in its operation, either establish slavery, or create independency. There is no medium now that does not establish one of these extremes; for should America be fixed to an invariable sum, as it increases in its power, it will be the better able to pay or refuse such sum to Britain. Allow them to tax themselves, and it may be the same, with this difference, that such indulgence would rivet such eternal affection in the hearts of the Americans for us and this country, that they would never forsake us.

If, on the other hand, you allow them a representation, it will be a mere bubble, unless their numbers exceed that of our present House of Commons. And as to their consenting to a fixed sum, it is what we have no right to expect from them, without allowing

lewing them a free commerce, which perhaps would be losing more from the one, than we might receive from the other.

So that to view the important question as it is, whatever prospect in peace we had of winning or alluring the Americans to assist us, in our national wants, over and above the numerous advantages we derived from our trade, is now by war banished and destroyed. Right is to give way to power, which (if successful) plunder results; for what is it, but plunder to kill those who never trespassed on us, and to take their property against their will.

I have heard it alledged, that the honor of parliament is pledged, and at the mercy of America. This is false; America is in the merciless hands of men nearer the throne.

Governments are instituted among men to secure life, liberty, and private happiness, deriving at the same time its just powers from the common consent of the governed. The Americans, according to this principle, are not within the bounds of our present government. They are strangers to it at this moment, because no consent in

in them has created them a people governed. Whenever, therefore, any form of government becomes destructive of the ends it is meant to promote, it is the right of the people to resist, to alter and abolish it, not for trifling, but substantial causes.

The Americans in Congress have sensibly said, experience hath shewn that mankind are more inclined to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to attempt to right themselves. But when, as they further alledge, a long train of abuses, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their duty to throw off such government, and provide new guards for their future security. Such have been their patient sufferings, and such is now their necessity to resist our government. They have given a catalogue of their complaints against us, which, as it is too true, impresses us with sorrow and compassion.

I have often conversed with men, professedly friends to the conduct of our present Ministers, on the great article of GOVERNMENT. I have discovered them violent in their wishes for

for subduing the Americans; while altogether ignorant of what constitutes *any* form of government, or what are the ends of it, which with me has ever been an excuse for their ill-guided understandings.

To obtrude a few thoughts of my own on government in this place, may not be unnecessary, since the public will read these pages as well as your Lordship, to whom alone it would be impertinent in me to speak on a subject, by you already much better understood than by me.

By your Lordship's permission then, it has been long observed that man (naturally a social being) is not big enough to live by himself, but that necessity, from his wants as an individual, obliged him to associate with his fellow-creatures in order to relieve and anticipate them. Experience has proved the truth of this, and without exploding an opinion of a celebrated writer, whom I have already quoted from, further than what has been ably done by the author of a Fragment on Government, † respecting a state of nature as distinct from a state of society, it appears plain that the latter is consequen-

† A very ingenious, laboured production, lately published.

tial to our creation, both as a relative quality to our very nature, and as a beneficial one, not only to ourselves separately, but to us all collectively.

Let the origin of society have been what it may, without it man would not be equal to the brute; for if only self-protected, and subject to no fixt rule of right beyond his own will and pleasure, he would be wretched; and was there no society, his exigencies would leave him below the savage, ungoverned, and of course liable to distress, carnage, plunder, and confusion.

Society therefore tends to remove in the first instance the causes of all these calamities, and to abate the perils that might attend us without it. This, however, would be insufficient, and but poorly effect the purposes to be expected from society, without an assurance that a GENERAL UTILITY would result from it, a thing which every human engagement has in view in its very formation. To obtain which, certain principles are lain down and subscribed to by individuals collectively, for the establishment of what is understood a public and private government

ment of the whole; and such an establishment I take to be a political constitution, upon which obedience is grounded for universal benefit, so long as it continues uncorrupted.

In this sense, government implies every thing for the welfare, safety, and protection of the people governed. To suppose the contrary, is striking at the essence of its foundation; since individuals in society never contributed thereto but from a positive faith, it would be for their general emolument; and it is folly to say, that because governments perhaps erroneously formed or corrupted, and submitted to merely from inability, to oppose the tyranny of the ruling power, that such governments are unalterable in theory.

If governments are supported by the governed (and there can be no government without a support) it follows, that those very parties constituting a government, are only bound in their obedience for their own advantage simply and aggregately; and as the ingenious author of the Fragment on Government premised, says, Obedience, however first created, is not binding

*regard of your opinion of myself good on  
your part*

on any one, unless in the case of UTILITY.

We have not yet learnt, that God in his providence formed men as Kings and Rulers, independent of their fellow creatures. They are earthly beings, and not like the Kings of the Jews, *Lords anointed*, except by the hands of an Archbishop, a being equally earthly. It is then clear that mankind, in whatever state or condition they are in, are all necessarily concerned in government; and tho' in time they might want a power to correct or reform an abuse of it in the hands of prostitutes, the right to do it is inherent in them. It may be a misfortune that the state they have contributed to establish, should ever become so overgrown and powerful from their suffrages, as to make a redress impracticable by a feeble resistance, which arbitrary craft might constitute treason.

Yet under all despotic governments (which are so from the accumulating power they draw from the governed) is this unhappily the case. The subjects of them are slaves; UTILITY among them is limited, not to the governed

verned ad large, but only specifically among the governors. The consequence of the last is derived from the vassalage of the first, who by natural right in a proportionable degree, are entitled to share the blessings of government with those into whose hands it may eventually fall.

But it has been very arbitrarily urged, that individuals have no right to complain of any government under which they are born, or to oppose with intent to break the political chain their ancestors had assisted in forging ; this would rob us of our free-will, and make us mere machines, acting under the will of others, for their purposes, distinct from our own. Reverse the position, and we find it more consistent to truth that we are not by nature formed to act under the will of another, without our own concurring with it, which constitutes a unity for the happiness and well-being of both. If it was otherwise, it would seem that government was never formed for the good of society at large, but rather for the benefit of such parts of it, who by the gradations of good fortune might be born to a superior state of

of worldly consequence, which is the case in all despotic governments.

It is immaterial to enlarge on the origin of the various forms of government in the world in this letter; suffice it then, that in regard to the constitution of England, which from the days of its first foundation has been excellently improved upon by our statute laws, the same being palpably wounded; and invaded in the time of James the Second, justly occasioned a revolution; otherwise Britons would have been slaves by this time, and the argument held good, that individually they had no right to complain, because they had no power effectually to oppose.

By such a tame acquiescence to tyrannic strides, assisted by corrupt Ministers, we might in time dwindle into the most abject condition, and forget that we were confirming slavery to ourselves under that government our ancestors had supported, not only for their own glory, but, as they conceived, the glory of their posterity.

Thus arguing, we are brought to the point between England and America; the former now seeks and sues for an unconstitutional submission from the latter

latter, which, if obtained, will infallibly stab the vitals of the British constitution, and wound the blessings we enjoy at home as a free people. Americans are Englishmen; to exclude them from the benefit of an English constitution, is to make them aliens. They have delighted in the name of Englishmen, even while they thought themselves entitled to it in a secondary degree; but when convinced of our attempts to deprive them of the benefits common among ourselves in England, and to force obedience to laws from them, to which they are no parties, they made a stand on principles of **UTILITY**, the destruction of, or infringement upon which, in any way whatever, is to undermine the stately pillars of government. A resistance in this case is a political and a social virtue, since the mischiefs to arise from it may be less than those to be expected from an obedience and submission to it.

Hence we find that the American declaration in Congress, in regard to independency, is founded on publick necessity. The purposes of that government under which they were here-

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tofore subject, being clearly opposed to their utility, the same as to them, is morally and politically dissolved. We have forfeited our right to any allegiance from them by our own merciless and improvident conduct towards them ; the consequence of all which I suspect will be dreadful somewhere.

When we think of the cruelties practiced by the Dutch at Amboyna, or the savage brutality of departed Nabob slayers, who have lain wide waste in Asiatic domains, for no other cause but rapine and riches, they appear but trifling compared to our dealings against America. The ravages of the former were made against aliens, for private property ; those of the latter are making against a part of *ourselves*, for publick loss both of life and treasure.

Wretched period this ! in a reign when the arts are improved, learning familiarized, and our kingdom flourishing in its trade, overflowing too with wealth ; which seems to give scope for the licentiousness of government, while religion is refined into mockery, virtue insulted, and vice openly practiced ! Political things cannot be worse than at present, and a change of some kind must soon succeed,

succeed, before the Ministry have glutted themselves in their present bloody pursuit; and before they are made sensible that they are forcing the Americans into eternal wrath and enmity against us. They are now in full career, and whatever may be their secret compunction, hope chears them on in their schemes, which they must either gratify or (dreadful alternative) quit their stations with loss of life.

Well do I recollect a quotation of your Lordship's in that speech which brought about a repeal of the first stride to tyranny, the American Stamp Act. It was from Mat. Prior :

" Be to her faults a little blind,  
" Be to her virtues very kind."

Which was supposing the Americans to have faults, while it allowed what could not be doubted, that they had virtues more than sufficient to counterbalance such faults : but when your Lordship withdrew, and left publick things in the iron hands of Scotch drivers, whose ostensible conduct was soon exploded, and themselves hunted from open day by an inflexible and desperate commoner,\* America began to be rendered in-

\* Mr. W—.

imical ; and by gradations every attempt has been progressively made, every subtlety contrived, to forge chains to bind the Americans down to the power of Britain.

While all the schemes of the Ministry have been agitating, how offensive to themselves have been the publick sentiments of American liberty, and those which have not justified them. Anathema's have been lately promulgated against the news-paper printers for telling their readers what ought not to concealed from them, the news of America.

In all wars the people have a right to know every thing relating to them ; but our Ministry, finding the merited displeasure of the people against the present, they use their utmost to withhold from us the language of those they have raised against themselves, but whom the main body of England yet deem their friends and brethren.

The last occasion on which government exerted its thundering voice was, that all our news-papers had published the declaration of the Congress, which wounded the more because plain truth, in simple language, apprised the people that

that government had imposed on the King, and lead him to countenance and dignify oppression towards the colonists, who before loved us, dealt with us, and deemed us their common parent.

Independence, however, is now declared, for reasons which I am sure must chill your Lordship's veins, at every recollection; and tho' your Lordship is in that calm stand-still of life, in that interstice, which all good and great men employ for future happiness, I trust you cannot turn your mind towards your country without a sigh, and deploring the horrid effects of a depraved administration.

All America is in arms; the West India islanders are fighting with the most piercing apprehension, that their all is in danger; and that from ease and affluence (the rewards of their industry) they may soon be levelled to a primitive state of dependance and want.

The produce of their estates, when committed to the seas for England, is now in surrounding danger. Their necessary supplies from America are curtailed; their wants therefore increased. They may dispense with their necessities produced by this war for a season,

season, but it is impossible they should dispense *entirely* with them; and should the Americans thrive under their injuries, their country must be lost to us; and with it such West India islands as now belong to us; since it will be utterly impossible for England to supply them at so great a distance with those very material articles which are necessary to their situation, and which, before this war, they most conveniently received from America.

But let us suppose that after a long and severe struggle, conquest favors England; will our government then not rule with every sway in America? Certainly. The Americans are apprised of this; to guard against which, as also every previous assault against them, they are warmly animated, and will, beyond a doubt, make a conquest *trebly* arduous to their assailants, who have *three* oceans to cross, *a variety of winds* to encounter, *seasons to watch*, and *storms to weather*, before they can renew their battles.

All which time America is fixed in *terra firma*; her warlike vessels are traversing her neighbouring seas, and taking our ships of value. Their own, which

which thus annoy us, are of little by comparison.

Miserable is the reflection, that we feel from these particulars; which serve only to convince us, that distress and disappointment is probable to spring from the conduct of such an administration as that we have seen, in a change of men, since your Lordship retired.

To gain America back, must at all events require immense treasure. To keep it (if gained) will require a standing army. What account then must such gain make in favor of England, when her treasure is exhausted to a degree of wreck? Surely little. America may be debited for the balance; but after a bloody war, it cannot soon (if ever) discharge it. Hence England, as I have already said, will suffer in a conquest, and the *vanquished* be left secret and jealous enemies, continually watching for every opportunity to gain strength, to emancipate themselves from that sordid slavery and arbitrary dependance, which their *conquerors* may for a time inflict upon them.

Yet

Yet supposing that they will be subdued, and that afterwards they should be successful in their endeavours to enjoy, what all the world has a right to, *civil liberty*, no longer will this be *Great*, but *Little Britain*. Contempt would be its portion from America, and from what cause, I am sure the reader may now well determine.

This, my Lord, seems too truly a portrait of the affair between Great-Britain and her Colonies. It may be indelicate in an individual to arraign the measures of Ministers, who in opposition to the most able arguments in both Houses of Parliament, have affected to cast the sneering smile thereon, and disregard their force; but when all the kingdom is animated in so great a cause as the present; when imposition is gone forth, and every deceitful lure cast before a misled people, who have addressed the throne with *savage folly*, it is a duty an individual owes his political society to draw the veil aside, and undeceive, if possible. It is the common cause, and the people ought to be satisfied in its conduct and expected event, since to the people  
*only*,

*only*, do all political bonds owe their force.

To deceive the yeomanry, or stir in them false desires, false hopes, or false expectations, is to impose on those whose common cause is at the mercy of their Ministers, and eventually to subject such Ministers to the people's vengeance, as traitors against their common happiness. The Roman and Spartan history give evident testimony of this truth. Among them, enthusiasm prevailed with the most humble characters, and rendered them severe objects of revenge against the traitors to their complaining country.

In a government wholesomely formed like ours, the people at large are not excluded from it. Their eyes are constantly upon it; for were it otherwise their freedom would in time degenerate, and despotism ensue at home.

This country has already had too much reason to deprecate, since the reformation, Kings, Queens and Princes, for their arbitrary wickedness. It has cut off a Charles, a Buckingham, and degraded a Woolsey and others, for no other reason than because they had se-

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parately prostituted the power reposed in them.

If then our common happiness is at the mercy of a present King or a Ministry, *self-sufficiently formed* to try experiments at the price of human blood, without effecting a universal good, who shall we offer up our curses against? And who shall we (like DeWits in Holland) commit to the just punishment of an injured mob?

Government, notwithstanding these arguments, which I am far from thinking new, or hitherto unsuggested, wander from every thing that in theory favors America, and puts a final question, *Whether the Americans can possibly be dependant on, or live under a milder state than that of England?* Taking for granted they were equal to those who do, the answer is, certainly NOT! But then, my Lord, let us amend the question, and ask, *Can the Americans be a more happy or thriving people under any other state in the world than ours,* corrupted as it may be towards them, by imposing taxes according to their ability, to be determined by us? Possibly NOT, but not probably. Discretion in the ruling power

power may for a time be limited; but for the reasons I have already submitted, ‡ it is an evil in embryo, which the womb of encreasing power produces in the shape of that monster, TYRANNY. This question, therefore, state it in what form we will, is premature; the object of it the Americans are alone to digest. The view of utility in the *Governors*, may continue the violence they have begun against the Americans, distinct from any utility in them; and the fear of losing so large an appendage to Britain as North America, induces them (the *Governors*) to subdue, if possible, that country. But in the immediate resistance of their efforts to effect such an end, the Americans flatter themselves with having a sufficient strength to oppose a tyranny on one hand without foreign assistance; and on the other, should they succeed in that opposition, to raise up a free constitution of their own; tho', whether so or otherwise (if *we are wrong*) is no consideration to us.

If by foreign, or other assistance against us, they should now, or hereafter succeed, and in consequence fall

‡ See page 28, 29, 30, 31.

into more despotic hands, it will be their misfortune, and our consolation will be, that our *despotism* was the occasion of it; so that unless they are able to establish *an independance*, they must in a degree be *more or less slaves*.

As native freemen, their blood recoils at the thought of such alternatives, and makes them desperate in their attempts to avoid either. Government may attribute their general commotion to the conduct of a few capital leaders, and pretend that a mob of ragged ruffians are misguided; but I would bring to your Lordship's mind, that the success attending all popular events has arose from capital leaders: to want them on great occasions, is to have the fangs of tyranny too fatally fixed on a degenerated people.

The dazzling intelligence of success to butcher the Americans into the terms of government, may be read with avidity by those who rejoice in the means prosecuted for the purpose. 'Till their ill-founded prejudices are eradicated, and they have sufficiently informed themselves of the impropriety of their wishes towards establishing what they falsely suppose a national right, by the sword, ignorance will enlist

list them under an arbitrary banner, and stamp on them the name of false friends to the constitution of a country they know nothing of.

I am sorry to find, that in Britain there are men posseſſing that servile humility, to adore the present conduct of their rulers, and to deem it sacred, without reasoning a moment on its oppression. Such a disposition (which prevails too much in most men who favor government at this time) is only becoming a Frenchman, to whom fervility is natural.

I make every allowance for immediate interest and convenience, and on that account cease to be surprized that any Minister should have so great a majority as of late. Men who give up their thoughts to their superiors must always be deceived, or having none of their own, become meer machines for their *use and abuse*. Of this miserable sort are the many (otherwise worthy) men, who have divided in favor of government against America.

Our only paper of publick authority has announced the taking of Long Island, New-York, and at last a success in two skirmishes on Lake Champlain. The defeats found glorious, and their recitals

recitals make wonderful columns in a London Gazette. To examine seriously and feelingly into the particulars, the truth is, that with an immense superior force both by sea and land, in all these great skirmishes we have forced our enemy to---A RETREAT, with the loss of *we know not how many men*. It is remarkable too, that in the accounts dispatched to us by veteran officers, we read the most fulsome compliments on themselves. They praise in exalted terms the valor and activity of their men in doing---what? Why, by a prodigious overpowering force, with able generals, opposed to inexperienced ones, three-masted ships against sloops, heavy artillery against light artillery, they were able to oblige a retreat, and to observe the firing of a town or two.

This, I think, is what our loyalists call success; if it is so, it is without advantage. We approach no nearer the object of our pursuit. No; that is to be done by a hostile traverse over all America; and, beyond a doubt, by killing its people, and forcing them to demolish their towns, *in time, with additional expence*, we may reign the bashaws of an eventual remaining few, and glory

ry in an absolute seizen of their depopulated spoils.

Thus have I proved that (unless an early, amicable end is put to the war) our conquest will be a real defeat, whatever may be the consequence of fasting and prayer to HIM, to whom all hearts are open, for a forgiveness of our sins, and for assistance in his providence to obtain such defeat.

It would exceed the limits of this letter were I to enlarge on every minute circumstance which might occur in the discussion of so great and so important a point as the present. In fact, had I been at first inclined to have reduced my thoughts into a copious pamphlet, I should have arranged them under distinct heads; but from what had been at the very moment published by Dr. P----, it was unnecessary in me to beat the same paths in search of political and constitutional truths.

I have therefore confined myself to this general review of the whole question, as debated upon in its various shapes. In the deduction of my subject I have united reflections to facts, and have hopes that your Lordship will discover, that wherever I shew a severity,

rity, the same is called forth by the subject itself, and is not described from a desire to anticipate the opinion of those readers, who may honour me with a deliberate and candid hearing. To such, after your Lordship, I dedicate these pages ; and if they shall be found to contain a dispassionate examination into the policy, justice, or honour of the war against America (which has been my study) I shall be well rewarded for my trouble in filling them.

Unconnected with any party, divested of all prejudice and partiality, I have endeavoured to speak the language of truth, and to try the American cause at the bar of an English court of justice. The English constitution has been my guide in respect to taxation ; the nature of government has directed me in respect to the polution of its end towards the Americans. The laws of policy, opposed to those of utility, I have enquired into as far as was necessary in the compass of a letter. Tho' a private individual, of perhaps but small consequence in that society to which I owe my welfare, I cannot help condemning, from the reasons I have here thrown together, measures which

which appear to me as a christian and a freeman, not only destructive of the very end they are intended to effect, but (what is much more to be lamented) offensive to our religion, and ultimately injurious to the prosperity of our country, hitherto unrivalled by any upon earth for liberty in all its forms; for grandeur, and universal happiness.

It is a maxim that Princes own no umpire but God, and that their disputes must be tried by him in the blood of his creatures; *terrestrial justice* then attends the strongest side, and is but *a name*.

The dispute, however, between Britain and America widely differs; it is not the dispute of Princes, it is that of Prince and People contending for a novelty. That People are united to oppose what they (with reason) deem tyranny in the Prince they once acknowledged as their Sovereign; that Prince, by his Ministers, is now persevering in their inimical measures, and relies on arms and superior force to support them.

Examine the sentiments of these very Ministers, headed by Royalty and the Privy Council, and we find they

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inform us nothing beneficial either at present to be expected, or that carries a shadow of profit in the remotest futurity. All they contend for is *obedience where it is not due, and violence where it is ruinous in the event.*

Unfortunate indeed is the reign which abounds in general depredation and wilful error, with the complicated folly and wickedness of vindictive tyranny.

I will not now pretend to biograph particulars, but there is every reason to believe, that posterity will find an historian before whom facts will be spread, for him to describe sententiously a Wilkes's mob, raised in consequence of ministerial turpitude ; the countenanced murder of an Allen ; the troops drawn out in St. George's-fields ; the defeat of an unarmed assembly there ; the cowardly and blood-thirsty triumph of the third regiment, with, lastly, a butcherly war against the Americans for refusing as Englishmen to be eventual and effectual slaves.

To conclude, my Lord, I suspect that the language of Doctor Price, where he says, "That an important revolution seems to be approaching in the affairs of this kingdom; and that if

if ruin is not to be our lot, all that has been *done* must be *undone*," carries too much solid sense and truth to be a moment controverted for the good of this country; which, from a system of improved corruption, has long laboured and groaned under accumulated disorders; even tho' we have among our Peers a Richmond, a Montague, a Manchester, a Devonshire, a Camden, a Shelburne, a Fitzwilliam, a Thanet, a Cholmondeley, a Stamford, an Abingdon, an Archer, a Ponsonby, a Chedworth, a Boyle, a Craven, a King and Portland; and among our Commoners a Burke, a Barré, and a Glynne, with many other independant men, who by their arguments and intrepid endeavours to serve their country, reflect every honor on the cause they are engaged in, as well as satisfaction and pleasure on those freemen who observe their behaviour.

But as Doctor Price in another place says, " It is unnecessary to relate what would render a Ministry estimable to the people, since a horrid civil war is begun, which will probably leave us nothing to be anxious about."

May

May the Almighty God, therefore,  
in his providence withhold the bloody  
arm, and teach our rulers sense to  
know their error, with judgment and  
humanity to reconcile and appease all  
their transgressions, before we are to-  
tally immersed in worldly wretched-  
ness, or exposed to the scorn of our  
neighbours in Europe, and pitied on  
earth by none.

M. D.

*Libertas & natale solum.*